



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/500,617 | 12/02/2004 | Dietrich Schluter | 57329US005 | 4341 |
| 32692 | 7590 | 04/10/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427 | | | GILMAN, ALEXANDER | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2833 | |

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/500,617

Applicant(s)

SCHLUTER ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent DE 2048144.

With regard to claims 1, 8, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses a telecommunications terminal block, comprising a splitter module , said block including:

at least one contact module (4 or 5) including a front side and a rear side, an upper side and a lower side, a first side and a second side opposite the first side , as well as at

least (Fig. 3) one row of contacts (33) extending between the first side and the second side which are exposed at the front side, and

at least two arrays each comprising at least two wire guides (10, 11) , arranged at the upper side and lower side of the contact module, which lead cable contactors terminated at

the contact (33) from the front side to the first side or the second side , the wire guides of each array each leading to a single side ,

whereby at least two of the arrays adjoin each other and at least one row of contacts and are assigned to said row of contacts, and

whereby the wire guides of the each such array lead to opposite sides.

With regard to claims 2, 7 German Patent DE 2048144 discloses that wire guides (10, 11) being closed wire routing troughs.

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to claim 3, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses wire guides (28, 29) that are substantially hook-shaped.

With regard to claim 4, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses each at least one contact module and its wire guides, are integrated into the housing (1).

With regard to claims 9, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses a wire distributor, more particularly telecommunications main distributor, including at the least one terminal block

With regard to claims 10, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses a plurality of terminal blocks stacked or adjacent to each other, whereby between any two contact modules, there are provided more arrays of wire guides (assuming that each of the two components forming 5 comprising an array of wire guides) , than there are rows of contacts within the contact modules.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the first array of wire guides and the third array of wire guides being provided at the one side , a second array of wire guides being provided at the opposite side, wherein the second array of wire guides leading to the same side as the wire guide of the third array of wire guides.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 01/20/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue, that the Steiner reference fails to disclose the at least 2:1 ratio of adjoining arrays to contact rows.

However, as it was shown in the office action, Steiner (Fig. 3) show each of contacts 33, disposed in the components 31 and/or 32, being connected to the respective two guides (11 and 10) disposed at adjoining (neighboring) layers 5 forming the contact module.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

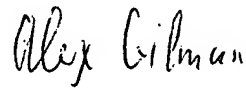
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2833

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

03/23/2006

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Gilman".

ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER